



MAY TIP SAVINGS: \$300 - \$400/YR + \$500 rebate

Avoided Emissions of CO₂: Up to 275 lbs./YR

\$USTAINABILITY \$AVINGS TIP

Water-Wise Landscaping for the Arizona Desert

Xeriscape tips to gain water, time, and money savings

Although we don't always recognize it, most parts of Arizona receive less than 10-inches of rain annually. Conserving water in our dry climate is very important, especially when up to 70% of water use is outdoors! Landscaping, especially when it includes grass, can require large amounts of water and maintenance. However, there are water-wise options when it comes to landscaping in the desert. One popular form of landscaping, called Xeriscape, embraces the desert, looks great, and is easy to maintain too!

By utilizing low water-use plants and using water efficient irrigation techniques, Xeriscapes are respectful of the desert in which we live and can help lower landscape watering costs. These are some of the basic principles designed to embrace the desert environment and create a vibrant and water efficient landscape:

The term Xeriscape comes from the Greek word xeros, which means dry.

XERISCAPE TIPS

1. **Landscape Planning and Design** – Create a design of how you want your landscape to look and how you will implement it. With the proper design you can save water, time, and money.
2. **Low Water-Use Plants** – Desert plants come in all shapes and sizes and contribute to lower water usage. They contribute to a low-maintenance landscape and fit in with the natural environment.
3. **Efficient Irrigation** – Find out how much water your plants require and ensure they receive it. Try to put different size plants on different valves so you can time irrigations differently.
4. **Soil** – Desert plants do well in our soils and generally don't require fertilizer. Loosen the surrounding soil at planting time to encourage spreading roots. Cover roots with mulch or compost.
5. **Appropriate Maintenance** – To keep your Xeriscape water efficient, perform proper maintenance of irrigation systems and don't over prune or over fertilize.

CHECKLIST FOR SAVINGS

- ☐ **Look into a \$500 City of Mesa Grass-to-Xeriscape rebate** at www.mesaaz.gov/conservation.
- ☐ **To learn more about Xeriscape**, attend our May *Living Green Workshop Series, Water-Wise Landscaping for the Arizona Desert*, and receive a free landscaping CD. For a list of all programs, visit www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability or call (480) 644-4400.
- ☐ **More information about desert plants** can be found in *Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert*, online at www.amwua.org/landscape_plants_online.html.
- ☐ **Steps and tips for Xeriscaping** can be found in our free booklet, *Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the AZ Desert* at www.landscapewithstyle.com.
- ☐ **Books on desert landscaping and watering** can be found at The City of Mesa Libraries, visit www.mesalibrary.org/research/living-green.aspx.

\$START \$AVING

Start saving by Xeriscaping and doing your part for *building a sustainable community*.

Visit our Web site for more sustainability savings tips at www.mesaaz.gov/sustainability.

Learn to live Green



mesaaz.gov/sustainability